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Pennsylvania Pharmaceutical Association. Annual Meeting.

The Eighty-Second Annual Commencement of the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy.

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EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING.

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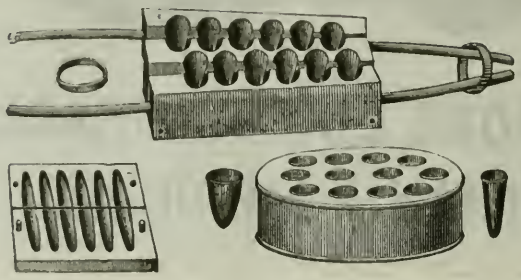

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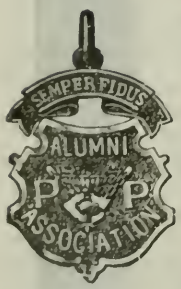

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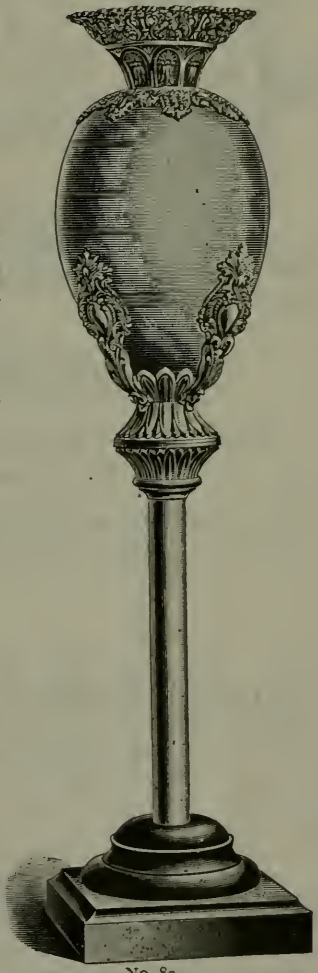

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PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILADELPHIA COLLEGE OF PHARMACY.

VOL. XXXVIII. . . . JULY, 1902 . . . No. 7

Papers.

SABLE ISLAND AND ITS INHABITANTS.*

By W. E. Saunders, '83.

Sable Island lies about sixty miles south of the nearest coast of Nova Scotia, and 150 miles a little southeast from Halifax. At this point the two ocean currents from Baffin's Bay and the Gulf of Mexico meet each other; and besides having thrown up the island itself, which consists of pure sand, these currents have formed many huge and dangerous sandbars, which extend to a distance of scores of miles from the island.

Most people who have any idea at all about Sable Island think of it as a desert sandbar, over which shaggy ponies glean a scanty subsistence from the tough native grasses and on whose shore many lives have been sacrificed by shipwreck during the past 300 hundred years; but I viewed the island from an ornithological standpoint, and as usual the point of view made all the difference in the world. It had for several years been known to me as the only home in the world of the Ipswich sparrow, and, so far as I knew, only one ornithologist had enjoyed the privilege of seeing this bird at home. It is called the Ipswich sparrow from the fact of the first specimen having been killed by C. J. Maynard near Ipswich, Mass. Had its life-history been known when it was named, it would, of course, have been called the Sable Island sparrow, and such should be its name now, for not only is Sable Island the only breeding ground in the world, but an island upon which no other land bird breeds. When an ornithologist has an opportunity of visiting a bird whose summer home is so little known, there is small wonder that he should forget all about the reputation of the island as a desert and think only of the rare treasure, ornithologically speaking, which is contained there.

So it may be imagined that I very gladly accepted the invitation to be one of the party that was to reach Sable Island on May

* London (Ontario) *Advertiser*.

16th, and remain till the 23d, to make some experiments in planting the island with forest trees; and looking back on our trip it must be said that not only were my own expectations of enjoyment more than realized, but even other members of the party who had no great expectations were very loath indeed to leave when the last day came.

A DENSE POPULATION.

More than forty persons have their constant residence there, and the men of these families are employed in the work of the life-saving stations and the two lighthouses. Every morning and every evening the entire shore of the island north and south, from end to end, is inspected. In bright weather this inspection is made from the lookout by means of field-glasses, but when, as was almost always the case during our visit, a fog lies over the land, the inspection is made on horseback, so that no person could get wrecked upon the island and remain undiscovered for more than about 12 hours. Immediately after the completion of each inspection, a telephone message is sent to the main station, reporting the result. A definite hour is set for these reports, so that they are all sent in together. At the time of our visit it was half-past 6 in the morning, and the same time in the evening; but, of course, as the seasons alter, these hours would need to be changed.

The temperature, while not high, is extremely stable. Our visit lasted seven days, during which time the thermometer varied only 21°, namely, from 38° to 59° the variation for each day being only about 12°; and the greatest daily variation we experienced was only 17°, from 42° to 59°. This was on May 22d which was a very warm, bright day. Fogs are of almost daily occurrence, and while we had the good fortune to have sunshine on three days of our seven, there was only one on which we did not have fog, and on some we had nothing else. There is a record of nine consecutive weeks of fog at about this time of the year, but we were told that later on in the summer, during August and September, the weather was all that one could wish, and the bright, warm days were exceedingly enjoyable. As the inhabitants are all Government employees, there is no commerce on the island. All supplies have to be brought from the mainland, and most of these are provided by the Government, which sends a vessel twice a year to supply the needs of the island. Sometimes these visits are postponed, as was the case last October, when it was found impossible to send supplies at all; and the boat which should have reached the island at that time landed its supplies, after two attempts, in the month of March. This delay caused a waste of 100 barrels of cranberries, which had been picked for the market, and which are about the only agricultural export the island yields.

The superintendent, Mr. Robert J. Boutilier, has now been in office for about seventeen years, during which time he has brought the life-saving work to a high standard of excellence, and he is certainly entitled to the highest credit for the present efficient state, which is in marked contrast to the condition of affairs before his incumbency. His kindness and that of his family was very much appreciated, and cannot be too highly spoken of. We were made to feel at home from the moment we landed, and when we left, our farewell was a pressing invitation to come back at the first opportunity and make a further visit.

AN EXPERIMENT THAT FAILED.

When Mr. Boutilier went there he had the landsman's dislike of drinking surface water, and instead of settling down to use the rain water from the roof he sank a well in order to get pure water, at some depth. What was his surprise to find that the fresh surface water was merely floating upon the salt water beneath, and no matter how deep the well was sunk only salt water was obtained.

The island is in the form of an elongated crescent, with its concave side to the north. It is nearly 25 miles long and only about a mile wide in most places. At each end it tapers down to a point of bare sand without any sign of vegetation whatever, and over which the sea sweeps at every high tide, and with every stormy wind. Approaching the island as we did from the north, the first view we received of it rather confirmed our ideas of a desert. All along the north side there is a line of sandy cliffs, varying from 40 to nearly 100 feet high. These are occasionally broken by gulleys which the wind has made, but the general effect is of one continuous cliff. The face of it is, of course, of bare sand, with very little vegetation, so that one receives the impression of white sand with only a scanty covering of grass upon the top of the hills. As the steamer approached closer we could see but little more of the island, as the cliffs barred our vision. But soon we could make out the men bringing the surf-boat from its shelter to the water's edge, and it was not long be-

fore the first of the Sable Islanders stood on the deck of the "Minto." We were, of course, eager to land, and took the first opportunity of doing so. While we were waiting for the boat to come out we were much interested in watching the large schools of codfish, which swam around the vessel so thickly that scores were in sight at once. The crew tried to catch some, but stale bait did not seem to appeal very strongly to the taste of the fish. One or two only were hooked and captured.

As we approached the shore in the surf-boat, we saw quite a number of seals, which permitted a very close approach, but they did not seem so inquisitive about a boat as they did subsequently about a person or a dog on shore. We had no difficulty in landing, as the sea was quite calm. The boat was simply rowed towards shore till it stopped. Then, as the waves retreated, some of the party jumped out, while those less agile were lifted by the crew and carried to dry land. Starting up for the centre of the island we were all interested to find many specimens of the eggs of the skate, which Captain Knowlton, of the "Minto," told us he had always known as a boy, under the name of "the devil's wheelbarrow." The body of the egg is about 1½ x 2½ inches square and ½ to ¾ inch thick. From each corner projects a curved horn about from 4 to 6 inches long, and from the sides are string-like substances by which the mother fish attaches the egg to the seaweed in the bottom of the ocean, where it remains until torn from its moorings by current or storms, when it is cast upon the shore. These we found in large numbers, not only at the landing-place but in most other localities on the island.

The boat-house was in the mouth of one of the gullies which had been torn through the sandcliff by the wind. Near the west side of the gully stood a conical pyramid of sand, which had originally been a part of the continuous hill running from east to west. Apparently the gully had been made in two parts, and when the second one had been excavated this pyramid was left standing between the two. It is a perfect cone of about 30 or 40 feet in height and gives one a good idea of the power of Sable Island winds.

The records show that winds of 40 to 60 miles an hour are common, and even 80 miles has been reached. Unfortunately we were not favored with any extremes of weather; most of us would have enjoyed the experience of meeting a wind traveling at the rate of 60 miles an hour at least; but although on one or two occasions we had one of 30 miles, it never went any higher. To one accustomed to a land breeze, however, a 30-mile wind feels quite strong, and one has to bend forward considerably in walking against it.

Passing up through the gully we got our first sight of the interior of the island, and at once our idea of a desert was dissipated. From the hill tops on the north the land sloped away southward in an undulating manner until it almost reached the level of the ocean, and while the higher hills were but thinly covered by the long, creeping grass—Ammophila repens—there was a variety of plant-growth on the lower ground which was as green as would have been in any other part of the world before the new spring-shoots became conspicuous. Before us lay the superintendent's house, painted white, and its front yard consisted of an acre or two of timothy and clover, which was as green as an Ontario field. Beyond the house lay a couple of small ponds, and south of them again the large inland lake of salt water, which extends 15 miles through the interior of the island. Across this lake is a long, low sandbar separating it from the ocean. At times this bar attains the height of 10 or 20 feet, and is then covered with creeping grasses and other beach plants.

IMPRISONED SCHOONERS.

At one time an opening in the bar permitted the entry of fishing schooners into the lake; but once, two of these that took refuge from a storm through this passage were caught, as the storm from which they fled closed the passage, and thus prevented their exit, unless it could be made overland, which was eventually accomplished.

From east to west the island is of the same general character, except that towards the east there are many large patches of cranberry and crowberry, the former of which is gathered in quantities for the market.

The vegetation on Sable Island is strongly modified by the fierce winds which hurl particles of sand at one's face with such force that their sting is felt severely, and so thickly that there seems to be a stratum of mist just above the beach. The effect of this assault on soft-leaved plants can readily be guessed, and Mr. Boutilier told us that on his willow tree, which is planted in a fence corner and grows 3 feet above the fence each year, the leaves turn black and die after some of the strong winds in summer. It seems hardly worth while for this tree to

grow above the fence at all, as it is killed back each winter to the level of the protection. At the time of our visit the dead wood of last year's growth was still on it, but all the living buds were below the fence level. As a result of these strong winds, all the plants of the island seem to grow dwarf; the common juniper, which is practically a variety of Juniperus communis, curls and twists its trunks around on the ground, while the little branchlets grow more or less upright to the height of a foot or two. Even the blackberry, Rubus (sp ?), creeps along the surface, which method is greatly appreciated by the visitor from the mainland, who has been accustomed to work his way through their tangle with much caution and considerable laceration of cuticle. The blueberries, which are numerous and large, are quite frequently lifted completely free of the sand in which their mother-plant is growing, but very often the sand has to be blown or washed off before eating. The meadow rue, Thalictrum (sp ?), which had its first leaves unfolded at the time of our visit, showed no sign of any intention of leaving the earth any farther beneath it than was absolutely necessary.

GRASS WAIST-HIGH,

Yet it would be unfair to condemn the vegetation of the island by its appearance at that period of the year, when the maximum day temperature had barely reached 60° ; for the residents told us that the grasses, goldenrods, etc., are "waist-high" in the late summer, and Prof. John Macoun is reported to have found over 190 species of flowering plants there. Of ferns, we found three species—Polypody, Polypodium vulgare—the Lady Fern, Dypteris spinulosum (var ?), and the Cinnamon Fern, Osmunda cinnamomea. The two latter were scarcely above ground, but roots were taken which proved to be of these species. With all this variety present, it will be readily understood that in the lower and more fertile parts of the interior, the upper layer of soil has become turfy and black, and could doubtless be used to grow fine crops were it not for the reason that, if it were turned under and cultivated, the wind would probably blow a lot of it into the Atlantic during the succeeding winter.

Gulches 50 yards wide and more, torn through the sand-cliffs on the north coast, were frequently seen. Around the telephone poles and fence-posts, wind is said often to scoop a round hole, often of considerable depth ; at other times, when Boreas is in a building mood, it is piled up around the telephone poles, until once it occurred that the line had to be moved to prevent the wires from burial. Some of the poles we saw had only about 6 feet left projecting out of an original height of 25 or 30 feet.

FIRST GLIMPSE OF THE IPSWICH.

My first thoughts on Sable Island were not for the success of the forestry experiment, but for the little birds who made this strange island their only home, and my ears were on the qui vive for the first notes ; and although it was foggy and rainy, as we approached the superintendent's house I could hear some sparrow-like chirps, and in a moment or two I heard the first song of the Ipswich sparrow, and was delighted to think that I would have them at such close range as the front yard of the house in which I was to stay. They proved to be very common, and one could hardly go to the door without seeing on the boardwalk which stretched away through the hayfield, a pair or more, while their song could be heard at almost every moment of the day from the same point of observation.

BIRDS THAT ADORN LADIES' HATS.

As the rain continued and it was therefore deemed unnecessary to proceed with the work of the trip at once, I took advantage of the opportunity, in spite of the weather, to start off on a tramp up the island. By far the most numerons of all birds there were two terns—the common tern and the Arctic. These are the small gull-like birds with the forked tail, whose skins have been used so much in the past few years for the decoration of hats. On Sable Island they are in thousands ; one can never go out of the house without having them in sight and in hearing; nor is there any place on the island where it is possible to escape their presence. The common tern probably outnumbers the Arctic by about two or three to one, but the habits of the two are so similar that they may be considered together. The roseate tern, a more southern form, breeds in small numbers, and had just arrived at the time of our visit. The nesting places of the other two terns were scattered all over the island. They breed as a rule in communities, although we saw a few places where it seemed as though perhaps less than half a dozen pairs would nest together. We were too early for the height of the breeding season, but the birds had begun to lay, and perhaps every third or fourth nest would have from one to three eggs in it.

SEA-BIRDS' EGGS AS FOOD.

These are used by the inhabitants very largely for food, and a hungry man can dispose of a good many such small eggs, but the birds are in such numbers, and are such persistent layers, that it is not very long before the inhabitants tire of eggs as a diet, and the birds are thus allowed to raise their young in peace. Even before this period arrives it is impossible for the inhabitants to eat all the eggs that are laid by so many tens of thousands of birds; therefore, many nesting places are left untouched, and the egg collecting is largely confined to those localities more accessible and convenient to the houses. Although too early for the main crop of eggs, yet three of our party one evening gathered over a hundred eggs in about twenty minutes. They reported the nests as being so close together that one could step from nest to nest, and this was also the case on a small island in one of the fresh-water ponds which I visited, where there were probably a hundred nests in a space not more than twenty yards long. The majority of the nests were merely a hole scooped in the sand, but a fair number had more or less straw and dry grass as a lining, and a very few had quite a compact and thick lining of the same material. The birds are exceedingly graceful flyers, living almost entirely upon the wing, and catching their prey, which consists of small fish, by darting down and taking them from the water, sometimes without wetting more than the bill, while at other times the force of the plunge is not sufficient to carry the bird deep enough to catch the fish. They feed largely upon a long, slender fish, which the inhabitants call the lance, and also upon sticklebacks, which grow to a length of about 3½ inches. Over every favorable piece of inland water the birds may be seen hunting at all times of the day, and thousands more are out upon the ocean, following the schools of cod, which chase the small fish, driving them to the surface, where they become the prey of the terns.

THE IPSWICH AT HOME.

The Ipswich sparrow, which was the chief attraction to me on Sable Island, is an insular race of the Savanna sparrow of eastern North America. In the struggle for existence for thousands of years on this bleak little islet the bird has become considerably larger and much paler than the continental form. The increase in length is about 13 mm., or 8 per cent. The breeding ground of this bird was for many years unknown, and not until 1894 was the bird fully studied and written upon. Previous to that time it was known as a migrant from Georgia to Main and Nova Scotia, and as a straggler in Newfoundland, but it then disappeared from sight, though it was vainly hunted in the breeding season on Prince Edward and Cape Breton Islands and in Newfoundland. At last a few shrewd guessers surmised that it must breed on Sable Island, and finally skin sent from there in summer settled the matter; but its summer history was not known until Dr. Jonathan Dwight, Jr., of New York, braved the inconveniences of the passage to the island, and spent three happy weeks there in May and June, studying the summer habits, song, etc., of this interesting species. Shortly afterwards he published a complete and very interesting monograph of this sparrow, including also an account of the history, climate and other features of the island, thus giving to the world the details that had so long been wanting.

I was far more favored in my visit than he, as the season was more advanced, and the weather brighter and more favorable, and I found that the intervening period of time had been auspicious for the sparrows, as they were much more abundant than he represented them to be in 1894. I found many nests, most of them being incomplete, but in seven instances I was able to take sets of eggs, four containing five eggs, and the remaining three, four, showing a marked difference from the Savanna sparrow, which almost invariably lays four eggs in this locality.

The variation in the colors and markings of the eggs is very great, some resembling those of the Savanna sparrow; others with a lighter ground and larger blotches resemble those of the Vesper sparrow, while one set has very small spots and is of a general slaty hue, resembling the eggs of the horned lark, and yet another closely resembles some sets of the bobolink. The nest is built in a similar manner to that of the Savanna sparrow, an excavation of nearly an inch being made among long, fallen grass of last year's growth, and the nest is seated in this excavation and built up about two inches above the ground level. It is well concealed, and would be difficult to find were it not that the bird is very particular as to the proper condition of grass, and as this condition is rather unusual, one's search is reduced to a trifle. Towards the eastern end of the island where the crowberry (Empetrum nigrum)

grows abundantly, a patch of it is often selected as a resting site, and the task of discovery becomes more difficult.

THE SONG OF THE IPSWICH.

The song resembles very closely that of our species, but the ending, instead of being a grasshopper-like buzz, as with us, is aptly described by Dr. Dwight as "pre-e-e-a." Reading these letters in a book conveyed no definite idea of the sound to my mind, but when I heard it I realized that not only was the description very accurate, but that the sound was almost exactly the same as the call of the tern, which, doubtless, the bird has acquired by dint of hearing this cry thousands of times each day, all summer long. That such changes do take place was proved to me some years ago by hearing a junco that lived in a region of white-throated sparrows, render his song—not a plain series of "chips," as usual, but "chip-chip-chip . . . chip-chip-chip," etc., in triplets, exactly as the throat does.

While the Ipswich sparrows are found during the migration as far south as the Carolinas, it is a remarkable fact that a fair proportion of them reside on Sable Island all winter, the number remaining being usually estimated at about one-fifth of the total. During severe weather many of these are sometimes picked up exhausted and chilled, and are then sheltered and fed till a better season arrives.

THE FOX PEST.

And not only are the birds themselves thus cared for, but the foxes, which are the chief enemies of this and other birds on Sable Island, are unmercifully pursued at every opportunity, and in the winter a systematic attempt is made to kill them by traps, poison and the gun. Their numbers are now very much reduced, and the good work still proceeds, so that there is quite a possibility of their utter extermination within a few years.

After the terns and sparrows, the most abundant is the Semipalmated Plover, a bird well known through most parts of the country in the migration, but which is absent in the breeding season, except in the more remote regions of the north. Sable Island is perhaps its most southerly breeding ground, and this probability made the study of this bird very interesting. Along the edges of the large inland lake there is cast up in the spring a fringe of eel grass, varying from one to four feet in width. In this eel grass the plover chooses to place its nest, and it seemed to be of no use whatever to look anywhere else. Each pair excavates three or more nests as a rule, and sometimes lines them as well, using the same material among which it is built. When a person following the shore comes to a pair of these plovers, all he has to do is to follow along this fringe of eel grass and search carefully for a depression, where the nest may be; and my experience was that where one hollow was found, close by would be several others. But I was too early for the main nesting season, and saw but two nests with eggs. The male bird has a curious two-syllabled call, which it gives in rapid succession while on the wing. Its flight at this time, as well noted by Dr. Dwight, closely resembles that of the night hawk, and may extend over two or three minutes at a time with constant calling.

THE BELTED PIPING PLOVER.

The only other plover breeding upon the island is the belted piping plover. This is the western variety of the piping plover, and Dr. Dwight noted as one of the surprises of Sable Island that this bird, whose main breeding-ground is in the western plains, should be found so far to the east, while the eastern part of the continent is almost entirely inhabited by the other variety. These birds excavate their nest hollow in the bare, open sand, which makes them exceedingly difficult to find, as the bird leaves the nest at sight of an intruder. One such that I found was on a bare patch of sand in the mouth of a gully, which the wind had cut through to the North Atlantic, and there was not so much as a single blade of grass within twenty feet of the nest. It is rather a misnomer to call the place where the eggs were laid a "nest," as it was merely a hollow, which contained a single small piece of shell. Later on, the boys told me, the piping plover lines its nest very extensively with pieces of shell; but in this case there was only the one fragment, though the set was complete, and the other nest that I found contained only one small bone of a bird about an inch long. These substances must surely be more in the line of decoration than for any assistance in the task of incubation. One of these nests I stumbled upon while skirting the lake one afternoon after having just shot the female under the impression that she belonged to the species rather than to the variety; but on picking her up I found that my surmise was incorrect, as the band across the chest by which the distinction is made, really did extend right across, although very faint in the

centre, and her mate, who was seen but not killed, had a wide black bar completely across. The other nest, however, cost me much thought and trouble, and were it not that one welcomes difficulties for the sake of overcoming them, it is not likely I should ever have found it.

A HUNT FOR A NEST.

The male bird seemed to pass most of his time on the shores of the lake, about 200 yards south of the nest, and here, on some little sandy knolls, I searched on several occasions without success Each time the male would run along before me apparently quite concerned, and after a while his call would bring the female. At last I caught a glimpse of her coming through the gulley before mentioned leading to the North Atlantic, and that gave me the hint I needed. I went back to the gulley and the birds followed, but search as I would I could not find that the numerous tracks which could be readily followed on the loose sand led to any nest at all. Leaving them for that time, I returned the next day, crept carefully to the top of the hill overlooking the gulley, and fired off my gun, in the hope of starting the bird from the nest. But there was no response. After waiting perhaps five minutes the male began calling at me from below, and with the aid of my glass I now located him, standing still; soon I saw the female standing near him, and I descended and made another fruitless search. A second time I went back and crept again to the top of the hill, this time making no noise, but just sitting down to wait and see what might happen. After a few minutes I heard the call of the plover, and soon located the male, standing still as before. In a short time the female came down the shore and lit near by; but so long as I remained in sight the birds would do nothing but stand still for a long time, run a short distance, and then stand again. However, I marked carefully the place where I first saw the male and went down to it, took up his back track, and trailed him to the nest, which contained four eggs, laid in the bare sand. I found that on my search of the previous day I had passed within six feet of the nest without seeing it, and during the night preceding my success, a fox had passed within ten or fifteen feet of the sitting bird, but, fortunately for me, had not winded her.

These eggs have a beautiful creamy buff ground, dotted with small spots of black, and harmonize very well with the color of the sand in which they are laid, as, indeed, does the color of the bird itself, which is almost light enough to persuade one that a running bird is a fleck of foam being blown along the beach.

THE LEAST AND SPOTTED SANDPIPERS.

These complete the list of the four waders that breed upon the island. At the time of Dr. Dwight's visit, the spotted sandpiper was a very rare bird, only two pairs being reported from the whole island. At present it is quite common, and its numbers approach quite closely to those of the least sandpipers. Its habits are, of course, too well known to need any special mention, as they do not differ on Sable Island from those of the bird so familiar throughout Ontario.

THE LEAST SANDPIPER.

The Least Sandpiper, however, is a bird belonging to the far north, and found in only two or three isolated localities south of Labrador. I found them invariably in pairs, evidently mated, often sitting so closely together that two could be obtained at a single shot if desired. But the very fact that two were always seen together proved that they had not yet begun nesting, nor did I see any sign of nest-building going on, although their presence was confined almost exclusively to the damp spots and edges of small inland ponds, where they are said to breed. Their courtship flight was very interesting. The note they used resembled somewhat, to my ear, that of the spotted sandpiper, but was repeated far oftener than is the case with that bird. Sometimes both birds would be in the air at once, but whether the female gave the note as well as the male, I could not definitely ascertain without shooting the birds, which I was very loath to do. The note would be given continuously for perhaps three or four minutes, during which time the bird flies slowly, with steady flapping of the wings, mounting in the air gradually until, when watching them in the evening, one loses sight of them in the gloom.

THE DUCKS.

Two ducks, the red-breasted Merganser and the black duck, complete the enumeration of the ten breeding birds of Sable Island. Both these species were usually seen in pairs, but on one or two occasions five or six of the black ducks were seen together. The pairs that were seen of this species were doubtless birds to whose nest an accident had happened, as it was too late for the regular laying period, and Mrs. Bou-

tilier had at the house a little duckling, which had been hatched from a nest found two or three weeks before; and from a setting of last year she has two handsome wild black ducks that will come at call and feed from her hand.

The Merganser was less common than the black ducks, and while I saw two birds on three different occasions, I judged them to be but one pair which had not yet begun to nest. Both these species are now much rarer than formerly, Mr. James Boutilier putting an estimate of their numbers at about three dozen pairs of the two species combined, on the whole island. This decrease is, of course, due entirely to the ravages of the foxes, and not, as frequently happens, through the persecution of man, as it is certain that few other ducks are favored with such complete protection as those receive that live on Sable Island. Not only is spring shooting prohibited, and the birds left to breed unmolested, but even in the fall, when the young are fully fledged and fit to be eaten, none of them are allowed to be shot. The inhabitants control their appetite for duck until the northern birds are traveling south, and the ducks that really belong to Sable Island are left to migrate unharmed. In addition to this, as I have said before, the foxes are mercilessly persecuted, and no doubt should the present efforts to exterminate them result successfully, the number of ducks breeding on the island would be largely increased, and might even be added to by other species.

As may be supposed, there are no tree birds resident on the island. Nearly all of the commoner Nova Scotia birds are found there during the spring and fall migrations as stragglers. All that I saw were the barn swallow, king bird, black poll warbler, white-throated sparrow, water thrush, and one specimen of the orchard oriole, the latter being exceedingly rare. All these birds are, of course, under unfamiliar circumstances, having to rest largely upon the ground or on fence-posts and buildings. But they seemed happy enough, and apparently a few of them remained for several days, possibly waiting for a favorable wind to carry them north.

Of sea birds, three gulls were seen—the herring gull, the great black-backed gull and the kittiwake, the latter being the only one seen in large numbers; of it one flock of several hundred was noted at the west end on May 22d, while numerous small flocks and individuals were seen all over the island, but they have not yet been found to breed. The greater yellow legs and the red phalarope complete the total list of twenty-one species of birds which I noted upon the island.

SEA GEESE.

The Phalaropes live mostly out at sea, and I was told by one of the men on the Government steamer "Acadia" that he usually sees them far from land, swimming among the beds of floating seaweed, where, no doubt, they feed upon the minute life which finds its home in such places. The sailors call them sea geese. A flock of these birds were flying around the island a few days before my arrival, when they encountered one of the telephone wires, with the result that three of them were injured, one fatally; another lost a wing, and a third recovered itself fully in a few days. I made a specimen of the one whose wing was cut off. A few days later on I was surprised to have the other injured bird fly past me and alight on the edge of the large lake, where it proceeded to feed quite unconcernedly. After watching it for some time I shot it. I had been hoping that if I ran across any Phalaropes I would have the pleasure of seeing them swim, but this one persistently dabbled in the mud and refused to go out into the water. Its breast feathers were quite soaked with water and mud when I took it up, showing that it had ventured into the muddy water over the depth of its legs.

MAMMALS.

There are no native land mammals on Sable Island. The walrus was formerly abundant on its coasts, but was hunted to extermination long before the memory of the present inhabitants. Two species of seal are common, the larger one of which, the harp seal, was frequently seen off shore, at the time of our visit, among the dozens of the harbor seal, which was very common, several herds of over a hundred each being seen in driving a few miles along the North Atlantic shore. Some pups of the latter were found, evidently recently born, upon the beach, after the herd had wobbled into the sea.

INQUISITIVE SEALS.

The inquisitiveness of the small seals is very great. Unless the sea is very rough, one cannot walk any distance along the beach without assembling an admiring audience of from five to twenty-five of these creatures, which swim along 20, 30 or 40 yards from the shore, with many heads constantly above water, staring at the intruder; and the gen-

eral effect of their countenances is so human that it gives one the uncomfortable feeling of being stared at, and makes him inclined to let out a yell that will disperse his audience. But he very soon discovers that this does not accomplish the desired result, and is forced to endure their staring with philosophical fortitude.

When one catches a pup of the harbor seal the mother swims in the water close to shore, with evident anxiety; but the inhabitants told us that when the pup belonged to the other species the anxiety very soon changed places and fell on the captor, who must run fairly fast to escape the mother of the youngster. The young of the harp seal are pure white, and are born in midwinter.

A LUDICROUS SIGHT.

When a band of the harbor seals is drawn out on shore, covering a surface of say 30 yards square, they are visible at a considerable distance, and when the team approaches they commence to progress towards the water, and as their limbs are very short, they are forced to hunch themselves along much as does a many-legged caterpillar. Every one has noticed how, in the progress of a caterpillar, a hump arises behind the head and travels back to the other end. With the seals the motion is very similar, and the effect of a whole section on the beach wabbling down into the water in this peculiar style is one of the most ludicrous sights I ever beheld, and the mainlanders broke into roars of laughter at the attempts of each successive band.

SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST.

Almost at the opening of the history of the island, cattle were liberated on it, and gradually multiplied until there was quite a good herd there. These, however, were hunted by parties from the mainland, who came over in boats for the purpose, and finally all the wild cattle were exterminated. Horses were next introduced, and some of their progeny are there yet. Swine were at one time wild upon the island, but they were said to devour human bodies from the frequent wrecks, and they were killed off for this reason. Rats have once or twice been a plague to the inhabitants, on one occasion making such inroads into the food supply as to almost threaten their very lives. At another time rabbits were liberated in small numbers and multiplied very rapidly, having a serious effect upon the pasture for the horses; cats were therefore imported to kill them off, and when they had this last nearly accomplished a few foxes were liberated. It took the fox but a single winter to kill all the rabbits and all the cats, and the inhabitants have been endeavoring ever since to get rid of this last and worst pest. Whether they will succeed or not is hard to say; but for the sake of the birds it is to be hoped that their efforts will not falter.

PENNSYLVANIA PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION—ANNUAL MEETING.*

The twenty-fifth annual meeting of the Pennsylvania Pharmaceutical Association was held at Buena Vista Springs Hotel, June 24th, 25th, 26th. The meeting was called to order by the President, W. L. Cliffe, on the evening of June 24th. The Association was welcomed by H. J. Mentzer, of Waynesboro, who was the local Secretary, and the response was made by Prof. Clement B. Lowe. The Maryland Pharmaceutical Association was in session at the Blue Mountain House, a few miles distant, and quite a number of the members were present, and were most cordially received, their President, Mr. Schultz, responding to the greeting.

Five sessions were held, much interest being taken in the proceedings. About seventy-five members were in attendance, many of them being accompanied by their wives and other members of their families.

Interesting and valuable reports were made by the committees on "Trade Interests," "County Societies" and "Adulterations." Delegates were in attendance from the Alumni Association of the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and the New Jersey Pharmaceutical Association.

As usual in meetings of a pharmaceutical character, the members and graduates of the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy took an active part in the proceedings. A large

* Report of the delegates of the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy—Dr. Charles A. Weidemann, Chairman; H. L. Styles, J. M. Baer, Meiers Busch and Joseph W. England.

number of papers were read, some of them eliciting much discussion. Among the papers presented were :

"Adulterated Asafetida," by Charles H. LaWall.

"Laws Regulating the Sale of Poisons," by J. L. Lemberger.

"Should Pharmacists Always Obey the Rules Laid Down in the Pharmacopœia?" by Joseph P. Remington.

"Gasometric Analysis," by Frank X. Moerk.

"How to Keep and Care for Leeches," by J. L. Lemberger.

"Synthetic Remedies," by M. I. Wilbert.

"Hydrogen Dioxide," by Robert C. Pursell.

"Tincture of Iodine," by T. H. Utech.

"Oleates, Oleo-palmitates and Oleo-stearates in Powder Form," by Mr. Nell.

"Price Cutting," by J. H. Redsecker.

"Improving U.S.P. Process for Tincture of Arnica," by H. F. Ruhl.

"Jumble of Store News," by H. F Ruhl.

"Profession and Trade," by John F. Patton.

"Should Drug Stores be Consolidated?" by W. H. Reed.

"Should Drug Stores be Closed on Sunday?" by Mr. Stutzer.

"Solution of Alkaloidal Salts," by Mr. Stoffer.

"Best Methods of Advertising for Pharmacists," by L. S. Vowell.

"Best Method of Dividing Powders in Prescription Work," by I. M. Weills.

A very instructive and practical talk was given by Prof. Clement B. Lowe on "First Aid to the Injured by the Pharmacist." Various utensils and appliances, with a living subject, were used to illustrate the lecture, which served to impress more forcibly the various processes on the minds of the hearers.

At one of the sessions a number of the unanswered queries were taken up for discussion, many valuable points being presented by the participants.

Resolutions were adopted—to be forwarded to the Committee on Revision of the Pharmacopœia—"to fix standards of purity at a practical point, which shall not be too scientific."

The work of the National Association of Retail Druggists was endorsed. In the remarks in this connection it was stated that in the far West the diploma of the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy was frequently seen, and that the possessors of them were always enterprising and successful.

From the Treasurer's report it was learned that the finances were in a better condition than last year.

Among the number of pleasant incidents of the meeting was the presentation of a silver tea service to both the Secretary, Dr. J. A. Miller, and the Treasurer, Joseph L. Lemberger, in recognition of their twenty-five years of service in their respective offices.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing term :

President—Charles L. Hay.
First Vice-President—Henry L. Stiles.
Second Vice-President—H. J. Mentzer.
Secretary—Dr. J. A. Miller.
Treasurer—J. L. Lemberger.
Local Secretary—David Horn.

The Association adjourned to meet at Eagles' Mere, in June, 1903.

THE EIGHTY-SECOND ANNUAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE PHILADELPHIA COLLEGE OF PHARMACY.

The Annual Announcement of the College has again made its appearance—the eighty-second in the history of the institution. Each year for eighty-two consecutive years has the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy proclaimed a better course and more thorough instruction, advancing steadily with the advancement in the science of pharmacy and keeping well abreast of the times. What a vast deal of room for improvement there must have been when that first announcement was published, and what an important part our College has taken in leading the march of improvement are matters of pharmaceutical history so well known that they need not be repeated.

The Freshman Course, as outlined by this year's announcement, includes weekly:

Two lectures of one hour each on The Theory and Practice of Pharmacy, by Prof. Joseph P. Remington.

Two hours' practical pharmaceutical manipulation under the instruction of Professor Remington and Instructor E. Fullerton Cook

One hour's review of Pharmacy, by Instructor Charles H. LaWall.

Two lectures of one hour each on Chemistry, by Prof. Samuel P. Sadtler.

One hour's review of Chemistry, by Instructor Freeman P. Stroup.

One lecture of one hour's duration on Physiology and Materia Medica, by Prof. Clement B. Lowe.

One hour's review of Physiology and Materia Medica, by Instructor E. Russell Kennedy.

One lecture of one hour's duration on Botany, by Prof. Henry Kraemer.

Two hours' laboratory work in Pharmacognosy and Practical Botany under the instruction of Prof. Henry Kraemer and Instructor William Stair Weakly.

One hour's review of Botany, by Instructor William Stair Weakly.

The Junior Course includes the following lectures and laboratory work each week:

Two lectures on Pharmacy of one hour each.

One review of Pharmacy of one hour's duration.

Two lectures on Chemistry of one hour each.

One review of Chemistry of one hour's duration.

Two lectures on Materia Medica of one hour each.

One review of Materia Medica of one hour's duration.

Three hours of laboratory work in Pharmacognosy.

Three hours of laboratory work in Analytical Chemistry under the instruction of Prof. Frank X. Moerk and Instructor Elmer E. Wyckoff.

The Senior Course includes each week :

Two lectures on Pharmacy of one hour each.

Two reviews of Pharmacy of 45 minutes each.

Two hours' laboratory work in Operative Pharmacy.

Two lectures on Chemistry of one hour each.

Two reviews of Chemistry of 45 minutes each.

Two lectures on Materia Medica of one hour each.

Two reviews of Materia Medica of 45 minutes each.

Four hours' laboratory work on Analytical Chemistry.

One lecture on Commercial Training of one hour's duration.

Special optional courses in all branches of Pharmacy, Chemistry and Botany are announced by the heads of these different departments, the most important being the courses in Chemistry and Bacteriology.

Editorials.

Preparations are rapidly going forward for the Semi-Centennial Meeting of the American Pharmaceutical Association in Philadelphia in September. The chairmen of the different sections and committees are exerting every effort to make every part of the meeting a perfect success. The Chairman of the Committee on Membership has announced that a prize will be awarded for the ten best reasons for joining the American Pharmaceutical Association. The officers of the Section on Education and Legislation have published a list of fifty subjects for possible papers for the convenience of any one who is in doubt as to what to write about. The Section on Practical Pharmacy has, in addition to the usual queries, sent out a substantial envelope, intended as a receptacle for notes, prescriptions, etc., which are to be sent to the Secretary of the Section. The President of the Association—well, he seems to be doing everything and thinking of everything. And from the President down to the most remote country member of the Association, every one is taking such an intense interest in the meeting as has probably never before been taken in such a gathering of this body.

Here at home, where the meeting is to be held, elaborate arrangements are in progress for the entertainment of our guests. It is not well to speak of such things beforehand, but it will be the endeavor of the Local Secretary and the various committees which have been appointed for the purpose, to entertain the American Pharmaceutical Association as it has never before been entertained.

* * *

An organization of drug clerks has recently been formed in Philadelphia. Several attempts have been made in the past to permanently organize the clerks of the city, but

in each case the effort has been unsuccessful. So many of the clerks being in Philadelphia for but a short time, during their attendance at college, is one of the greatest obstacles to such an organization. The leaders in the present movement have undertaken the work with a full understanding of the difficulties they will encounter, and this in itself is an indication that they will make it a success.

The good which can be accomplished by such a body is very great, although shorter hours and better salaries are the objects which will be of the most importance. The organizers have received encouragement from their employers in every instance, and many prominent members of the P.A.R.D. heartily favor the movement. The desire to obtain shorter hours is common to both these organizations, and the members of the larger association look with approval upon this material aid to the accomplishment of one of their purposes.

Should the present scarcity of good clerks continue, it will go a great way toward solving the question of better salaries. It is, of course, not the purpose to affiliate this organization to that of the American Federation of Labor, nor is it the purpose to resort to a strike—the weapon of labor organizations. The method to be pursued, and the one most likely to be successful in this movement for better salaries, is to increase the shortage of clerks. This can be done by aiding the State Board of Pharmacy in preventing unqualified men from doing the work of registered managers and qualified assistants.

Organization, if it be properly used, is always a good thing, and in this case it is particularly good, because of the number of admirable reforms it can accomplish.

Executive Board Meeting.

A special meeting of the Executive Board of the Alumni Association was held on Tuesday afternoon, May 20, 1902, in Alumni Hall, at the call of the President, Wm. G. Nebig.

The meeting was called to order by the President at 3.30 P.M. The roll was called and the following members were present, viz., Wm. G. Nebig, Albert Oetinger, Jacob M. Baer, Wm. E. Krewson, Walter A. Rumsey, M. W. Bamford, Rolland H. French, Otto Wm. Osterlund, John D. Burg, Charles H. LaWall, and Wm. T. England, also ex-Presidents Harry L. Stiles and Theodore Campbell.

Communications were received from C. Carroll Meyer, Freeman P. Stroup and E. Fullerton Cook, regretting they would be unable to attend the meeting.

The President announced that he had called the meeting to-day to bring the members of the Executive Board together for a general conversation on promoting the best interests of the Association and read the following address, viz.:

Gentlemen of the Executive Board:

Believing that the Alumni Association should not be an expense to the Institution which it represents, but, on the contrary, be of financial assistance to the College in promoting improvements and keeping up the interest of the Association, your President has called a special meeting to afford every one an opportunity to give his views in acquiring the much-hoped-for, but never-consummated object, putting the Alumni Association not only on a self-supporting but paying basis.

The ALUMNI REPORT has always been an expense rather than an income to the Association. Believing that the REPORT can be made to not only pay for itself, but pay all the expenses of the Association, I respectfully submit the following figures to bear out my assertions:

Cost of REPORT for 1898–99	$2,312 15
Receipts	1,433 35
Deficit	$878 80
Cost of REPORT for 1899–1900	$2,378 33
Receipts	1,351 19
Deficit	$1,027 14
Cost of REPORT for 1900–01	$2,373 68
Receipts	1,553 00
	$820 68
Deduct outstanding bills	207 46
Actual deficit for 1900–01	$613 22
Cost of REPORT for 1901–02	$1,486 05
Receipts	1,332 60
Apparent deficit	$153 45

Outstanding bills	$530 42
" " 1901	207 46
	$322 96
Deduct apparent deficit	153 45
Gain on REPORT	$169 51
Deduct salary of Editor and Business Manager	105 00
Actual gain on REPORT	$64 51

To state briefly, the REPORT of 1900–01 was $265.58 less than the REPORT of 1898–99, and $413.92 less than the REPORT of 1899–1900.

The REPORT of 1901–02, $943.31 less than 1898–99; $1,091.65 less than 1899–1900; $677.73 less than 1900–01.

If we can make the same showing for 1902–03 that we did for 1901–02, we can pay the full salary of the Business Manager and Editor, and pay all the expenses of the Association, thereby saving to the College the appropriation of $500 which was allowed us this year.

Gentlemen, this means we must get eight pages more of advertisements for our REPORT.

While I concur in the spirit of the report, I cannot refrain from taking exceptions to one of the recommendations contained in the annual report of the Publication Committee, namely, the one of paying a solicitor.

With a little effort on the part of the members of the Executive Board, together with the members of the Association, we can solicit our own advertisements, thereby saving to the Association the percentage which we would have to pay the agent.

The Association has been fortunate in the past year in procuring the services of the Editor and Business Manager, if necessary, without pay. This is neither justice nor business, as we cannot expect these gentlemen to give their time without remuneration.

The Committee on Social Meetings, on account of the small balance left this year, will be required, as it has done in the past, to solicit subscriptions to carry on the work of the social meetings for the coming winter, making a full report at the annual meeting. I would recommend that the treasurer of this committee confer with Mr. Harry L. Styles, the successful treasurer of two years ago, as to the best methods to pursue in carrying out this very important duty.

The Committee on Class Organizations should not only organize the class societies, but exert some control over the students during the year; listen patiently to their troubles, and, if possible, have them corrected, and also assist the work of the Committee on Social Meetings.

The delegates to the American and Pennsylvania Pharmaceutical Associations should report on the prominent features of the respective meetings and whatever is of interest to the members of the Alumni Association.

The Ex-Presidents.—One of my esteemed predecessors, Mr. James C. Perry, recommended that the ex-presidents be formed into an advisory board, thereby giving their counsel to the younger members of the Executive Board, and giving them the benefit of their experience and mature judgment. I regret to say that, with but very few exceptions, our meetings are never graced by our ex-presidents. To them I now appeal for their united support in the endeavor to make the Association self-sustaining.

After the reading of the above address a general conversation was indulged in by all of those in attendance in reference to the best mode of procuring advertisements for our ALUMNI REPORT, and it was the unanimous opinion of those present that the best mode of procuring advertisements was by personal effort on the part of each member, and a number of those present promised to try to get new advertisements during the present year.

The Secretary then read the list of the appointment of the committees for the ensuing year:

Committee on Finance—Albert Oetinger, '86, Chairman; Jacob M. Baer, '87; Walter A. Rumsey, '84.

Committee on Publication—Walter A. Rumsey, '84, Chairman; Jacob M. Baer, '87; Otto William Osterlund, '99; Samuel B. Davis, '99; Jacob Eppstein, '92; M. William Bamford, '99, Editor; William E. Krewson, '69, Secretary and Business Manager; William G. Nebig, '86, President.

Committee on Social Meetings—M. William Bamford, '99, Chairman; Rolland H. French, '01; E. Fullerton Cook, '00; Charles H. LaWall, '93; Freeman P. Stroup, '96.

Memorial Committee—William E. Krewson, '69, Chairman; John D. Burg, '86; John H. Hahn, '81.

Committee on Class Organization—Chas. H. LaWall, '93, Chairman; E. Fullerton Cook, '00; Freeman P. Stroup, '96; Wm. S. Weakley, '99; M. Wm. Bamford, '99.

Committee on Annual Reception—C. Carroll Meyer, '73, Chairman; Albert Oetinger, '86; Nicholas F. Weisner, '96.

Historical Committee—Prof. Jos. P. Remington, '66, Chairman; Wm. E. Krewson, '69; Jos. W. England, '83.

Delegates to Pennsylvania Pharmaceutical Association—Chas. H. LaWall, '93, Chairman; Jacob M. Baer, '87; Henry L. Stiles, '85; James C. Perry, '91; Jos. L. Lemberger, '54.

Delegates to American Pharmaceutical Association—Prof. Henry Kraemer, '89, Chairman; Prof. Clement B. Lowe, '84; Thos. S. Wiegand, '54; Rolland H. French, '01; Albert E. Ebert, '64.

There being no further business, on motion the meeting adjourned.

Attest: WM. E. KREWSON, *Secretary.*

Our Graduates.

(In order to make this department of the REPORT as generally interesting as possible, the graduates of the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy are requested to send items of information concerning graduates to the editor of the REPORT. By so doing, they can keep in social touch with fellow-graduates and renew the friendships of college days.)

MEMORIAL ROSTER.

Kachline.—On Sunday evening, March 23, 1902, at the residence of his mother, Nazareth, Pa., Frederick W. Kachline, PhG., '94, of asthma, aged 31 years, 9 months, and 14 days.

MARRIAGE ROSTER.

Hoch—Buss. On Wednesday, June 4, 1902, at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Bethlehem, Pa., Quintus Hoch, '99, of Philadelphia, and Miss L. Irene Buss, of Broadhead Station, Pa.

Ohliger—Hard. On Wednesday evening, June 11, 1902, at Wooster, O., Willard Ohliger, '00, of Detroit, Mich., to Miss Agatha G. Hard, of Wooster. At home after August 15th, at 20 Sibley Street, W., Detroit, Mich.

Henritzy—Hoffman.—On Monday, June 16, 1902, Dr. Oscar E. Henritzy, '93, of Walnutport, Pa., to Miss Mayme M., daughter of Mr. and Mrs. O. H. Hoffman, of No. 619 Moore Street, Philadelphia.

PERSONALS.

——'83, W. E. Saunders, who is the author of our leading article this month, has gained an envious reputation as an ornithologist. This paper, which is very interesting, was written after a trip to Sable Island with a party which had for its main object the planting of hardy evergreen trees upon the island.

——'92, Dr. John Harvey Miller is located at 18 North Fourth Street, Harrisburg, Pa., in the practice of medicine. He graduated from the Jefferson Medical College, Class of '96. From June 1896 to June 1897 was resident physician of the Harrisburg Hospital and was assistant surgeon at the Dayton (O.) Home for Disabled Soldiers, from July 1897 to February 1901.

——'96, James S. Holt has purchased the pharmacy, corner Fifteenth and Cumberland Streets, from Arthur J. Wissler,' 94, who has removed to Lyndhurst, Augusta County, Va.

——'96, Dr. Geo. Cooper Moore is at the northwest corner of Fifth and Jefferson Streets, having purchased the old-established drug store at that location, and is in the practice of medicine in connection with the store. He graduated from the Jefferson Medical College in 1899.

——'96, J. F. Seyforth, of Oklahoma City, was elected First Vice-President of the Oklahoma Pharmaceutical Association at the annual meeting of that body which was held in Enid, Oklahoma, on May 14th. Mr. Seyforth is actively interested in the Association work, and besides being Local Secretary for this meeting presented several valuable papers.

——'97, Harry Matusow has purchased the drug store southwest corner Third Street and Columbia Avenue, from Karl V. Kerth, and took possession June 6, 1902.

——'02, John Alexander Borneman has purchased the old-established drug store of F. H. Heckler, '93, northeast corner Sixth and Dickinson Streets, formerly Geo. D. Blomers, '61, deceased.

——'02, Morrison P. Williams, one of the prize men of his class, is located with Woodall and Sheppard, of Charlotte, N. C. At an examination held by the North Carolina Board of Pharmacy on June 17–18, Mr. Williams received the highest grade of all the applicants for registration.

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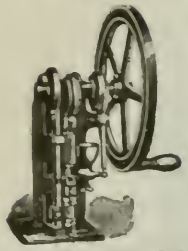

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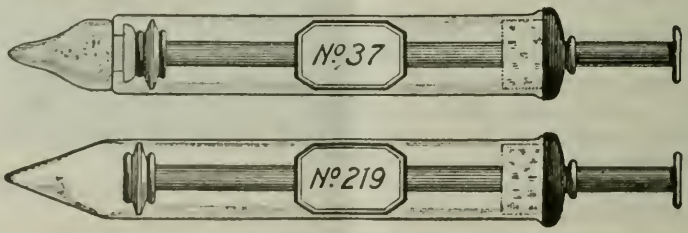

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